

ABSTRACT

An environment in which copyright management is exercised is supplied so that encrypted contents and the license for decrypting the encrypted contents can be handled independently. Further, each client legally uses the contents. When contents acquired by client A are to be moved to client B, the information about client B is attached to the contents so that client B can be identified. In this manner, the contents can be shared between clients A and B, while the contents are protected. A licensed user can use contents from a plurality of devices, while preventing an illegal use of the contents.